

Appalachian Trail Maintainers News

*Remote for detachment; Narrow for chosen company; Winding for leisure; Lonely for contemplation;
It beckons not merely north and south, but upward to the body, mind and soul of man...Harold Allen*



Published by the Appalachian Trail Maintainers Committee of the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club

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April 2009

Work Trip April 4, 2009

Two groups will meet at **8AM** at **Sugarlands Visitor Center** to work on the A.T. **Jim Quick and Doris Gove** will lead a group to the Clingmans Dome area, to clean waterbars, get smaller blowdowns off the trail, and if the sawyers haven't come through yet, get the blowdowns cleaned of branches where they can get in there to cut them more easily. **Dick Ketelle** will lead a sawing party starting at Newfound Gap and working north. Please contact Jim at jqhiker37@aol.com or 865 660 3351 or Doris at or DorisGove@aol.com 865 522 9896. Dick Ketelle's group will meet at Sugarlands at 8am. Contact Dick at rhketelle@comcast.net or 865 483 3792. Paul Tanguay will meet volunteers at 7am at Asheville Highway Food Lion. Paul's contact info is paul.a.tanguay@mepcom.army.mil or 865 228 9355.

Cable Gap Privy Project

The Cable Gap privy is scheduled to be replaced on **May 16, 2009**. There will also be a work session in April or early May at the Forest Service work area to precut and fit the materials for both privies, and possibly do some pre-fab. The Forest Service will later deliver the materials to the spot just below the Cable gap shelter site for us to carry up.

A.T. Work

2/01/09-2/03/09 Franklin LaFond assessed trail (and gave a wonderful detailed report) from Fontana Dam to Spence Field.

2/15/09-2/19/09 Joshua Sykes assessed trail conditions from Wesser to Brown Fork Gap shelter.

2/17/09 Mac McNutt and Jerry Troxler met with ATC rep Andrew Downs and two Forest Service Rangers to determine the location of the moldering privies to be set in later this spring at Sassafras Gap Shelter and Cable Gap Shelter. While we were there, we picked up and carried out a bag of litter at each shelter plus a large sheet of weathered plastic at each shelter.

2/18/09 T.J. Tolnas and Mike West cleared seven blowdowns, one of them large, and cleaned all water bars between Cody Gap and Brown Fork Gap.

2/28/09-3/01/09 John Gassler cleared one blowdown with several branches completely blocking trail and numerous fallen branches on Snake Den Trail. He cleared two blowdowns and dropped another large one to the ground (now a stepover), and cleared numerous fallen branches on the A.T. between Snake Den Trail and Tricorner Knob. He checked and cleared waterbars on the A.T. from Snake Den Trail to Mt. Sequoyah, cleaned the privy at Tricorner Knob, filled mulch buckets, picked up and packed out trash from the shelter, and returned a repaired swingblade to the tool box at the shelter.

**Chainsaw window this year is
April 1 –May 3**

3/5/09 Alan Duff, Paul Groenhout, and Dick Ketelle removed blowdowns and cut back rhododendron encroaching on trail in several places between Cheoah Bald and Wright Gap.

3/9/09 Terry Elmore, Mac McNutt, Philip Royer, Mike Wood, and Steve Reagan cut four blowdowns and constructed a water bar, starting at Cheoah Bald and ending approximately 3 miles north.

3/07/09 Ed Peck and Stew Taylor crosscut 15 blowdowns and cleared the trail of winter storm debris.

3/07/09 Paul Tanguay and T.J. Tolnas cleaned 16 waterbars and built one new one, along with clearing winter storm debris from the trail, between Yellow Creek Gap and Cody Gap. The weather was 65 degrees and clear, a beautiful day for hiking.

3/07/09 Jerry Troxler, Bill Clabough, Rob Davis, and Jack Millspaugh cleared all the blow downs between Yellow Creek Gap and Hwy 28 at the Fontana Marina. They also cleaned out water bars between YCG and Walker Gap and picked up and carried out a bag of trash from Cable Gap Shelter and a discarded tent abandoned on the trail.

3/10/09 Steve Higdon removed trip hazards, picked up debris from winter storms, removed one eight inch blowdown near the high point of trail, cut a few early briars, and picked up litter from Newfound Gap to Indian Gap.

Konnarock

In 2009 the Konnarock crew will work the Hogback Relocation project between Cody Gap and Brown Fork Gap. This will include the section north of the rock outcrops with views. The dates are 7/9 to 7/13 and 7/16 to 7/20.

National Trails Day is June 6